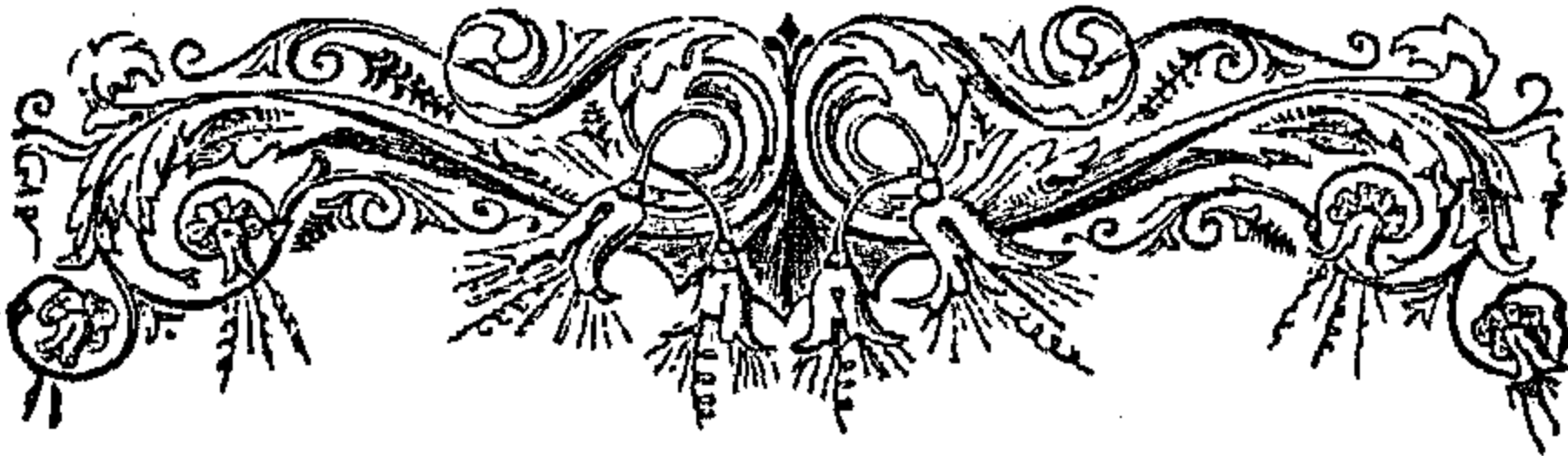


a community called ...

The Copyright law of the United States (title 17, United States code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specific conditions is that the photocopy of reproduction is not to be "used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship, or research." If a user makes a request for, or later uses, a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of "fair use," that user may be liable for copyright infringement. This institution reserves the right to refuse to accept a copying order if, in its judgment, fulfillment of the order would involve violation of copyright law.

By using this material, you are consenting to abide by this copyright policy. Any duplication, reproduction, or modification of this material without express written consent from Asbury Theological Seminary and/or the original publisher is prohibited.

© Asbury Theological Seminary 2011



WHAT WILL MAKE A DEATH-BED EASY?

“**A**LLOW me to ask your opinion, sir, as to what would make a death-bed easy,” said the Princess Charlotte to a minister of the Gospel who called upon her. The gentleman started at so unexpected a question from a young woman blooming with health and in so high a station, and he expressed surprise that the princess should consult him, when she had access to persons who were so much more capable of answering her inquiries. Her reply was that she had asked the same of many, for she wished to collect various opinions on that all important subject. Thus pressed

the clergyman felt it to be his duty to be faithful. He therefore recommended her to study the Bible, which, he said, represented *faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as the only means of making a death-bed easy*. The princess burst into tears, saying, "O! that is what my grandfather has often told me; but then he used to add that I must not only read the Bible, but I must pray for the Holy Spirit to enable me to understand its meaning."

When the visitor rose to depart, the princess begged he would remember her in his prayers. The good man replied that he did pray for her, not only from a sense of duty, but from inclination also, adding that she might therefore rely on an interest in his poor prayers. "Do not call them poor," said her royal highness, "for you know that 'the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.'"

The princess shortly after was unexpectedly called to the trial of an early death, and let us hope that she had taken heed to the pious counsel that was given her.

Dr. Payson, in his dying charge to the young

men of his congregation assembled round his bed, gave this testimony: "I wish to tell you what a precious pilot Christ is, that you may be induced to choose him for yours. I feel desirous that you should see that the religion I have preached can support me in death. I have many ties which bind me to earth, but the other world acts like a much stronger magnet and draws my heart away from this. While my body is tortured the soul is perfectly happy and peaceful, more happy than I can possibly express to you; my soul is filled with joy unspeakable. I seem to swim in a flood of glory which God pours down upon me; and I know, *I know*, that my happiness is but begun. I cannot doubt that it will last forever! And now is all this a delusion? is it a delusion which can fill the soul to overflowing in such circumstances? No, it is not a delusion, I feel that it is not; I do not merely know that I *shall* enjoy all this, I enjoy it *now*. All this happiness I trace back to the religion I have preached, and to the time when that great change took place in my heart which I have often told you

is necessary to salvation ; and I now tell you again, that without this change you cannot it no, you cannot—see the kingdom of God.’

Dr. Doddridge thus expressed the state of his mind during his last illness: “My soul is vigorous and healthy, notwithstanding the hastening decay of this frail and tottering body. It is a blessed thing to live above the fear of death, and, I praise God ! I fear it not. God hath, as it were, let heaven down upon me in my nights of weakness and waking. I am not suffered once to lose my hope. My confidence is, not that I have lived such or such a life, or served God in this or the other manner: I know of no prayer I ever offered, no service I ever performed, but there has been such a mixture of what was wrong in it, that, instead of commending me to the favor of God, I needed his pardon through Christ for the same. I have no hope in what I have been or done, yet I am full of confidence ; and this is my confidence—there is a hope set before me ; I have fled, I still flee, for refuge to that hope ; in Christ I trust ; in him I have strong consola-

tion, and shall assuredly be accepted in this Beloved of my soul. The spirit of adoption is given me, enabling me to cry, 'Abba, Father.' I have no doubt of being a child of God, and that life and death, and all my present exercises, are directed in mercy by my adored heavenly Father."

The following is the dying testimony of Mrs. Hannah More: "*Jesus is all in all!* Happy are they who are expecting to be together in a better world! The thought of that world lifts the mind above itself. To go to heaven! think what that is. To go to my Saviour, who died that I might live! O, glorious grave! It is a glorious thing to die!" When some one spoke of her good deeds, she replied, "Talk not so vainly; I utterly cast them from me, and fall low at the foot of the cross."

The following account was written by the late William Knibb, and shows the power of Divine grace to sustain the mind even in the midst of ignorance and poverty: "I found a poor female slave, who had been ill of a decline

a year, lying on a mat on the floor, her head supported by a chest. Never did I see such an object. When I entered she said, 'O, massa, me glad to see you; me thought me should die, and not be able to tell you how good our Lord is. O, massa, him too good, too good for me, poor nigger.' After questioning her, I asked her if she were afraid to die. Her eyes sparkled with delight, 'No, massa, *Jesus him die for me*. Me no afraid to die and go to him; him too good.' O, thought I, this is religion. Soon afterward she died, rejoicing in that love of which, I doubt not, she is now a happy partaker."

Reader! have you faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? If you have not, hearken to the words of an old divine inviting you to come to Jesus: "Have you sins, or have you none? If you have, whither should you go but to the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world? Have you souls, or have you none? If you have, whither should you go but to the Saviour of souls? Is there a life to come, or is there not? If there is, whither

should you go but to Him who only hath the words of eternal life? Is there a wrath to come or is there not? If there is, whither should you go but to him who only can deliver from the wrath to come? And will he not receive you? If he yielded himself into the hands of them that sought his life, will he hide himself from the hearts of them that seek his mercy? If he was willing to be taken by the hand of violence, is he not much more willing to be taken by the hand of faith? He that died for thy sins, will he cast thee off for thine infirmities? O! come, come, come; I charge you, come; I beseech you, come; come, and he will give you life; come, and he will give you rest; come, and he will receive you; knock, and he will open to you; look to him, and he will save you. Did ever any one come to him for a cure and go away without it? Thou wouldest find something in thyself, but thou findest nothing but what thou hast reason to be ashamed of; but let not that hinder, but farther thy coming. Come as thou art; come poor, come needy, come naked, come empty,

come wretched, only come, only believe; his heart is free, his arms are open, it is his joy and his crown to receive thee. If thou art willing, he never was otherwise. He ever lives, ever loves, ever pities, ever pleads. HE LOVES, AND SAVES TO THE UTTERMOST ALL THAT COME UNTO HIM."

HUNT & EATON, 805 Broadway, New York.
CRANSTON & STOWE, Cincinnati.